



Administrative Policy and Procedures Manual

601 POLITICAL ACTIVITY

POLICY

A Judicial Branch employee may participate in political activity, subject to the constraints set forth below and in the law governing public employee ethics and political activity.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Individuals employed by the Judicial Branch retain the right to vote as they choose and to express their opinions on political subjects and candidates and shall be free to participate actively in political management and campaigns. Such activity may include, but shall not be limited to:

- Membership and holding of office in a political party, organization or club;
- Campaigning for a candidate in a partisan election by making speeches, writing on behalf of the candidate or soliciting votes in support of or in opposition to a candidate;
- Making contributions of time and money to political parties, committees or other agencies engaged in political action; or
- Becoming a candidate for a state or municipal office, in any political partisan election.

No person employed in the Judicial Branch may:

- Use official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or a nomination for office;
- Directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command or advise a state or local officer or employee to pay, lend or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency or person for political purposes;
- Engage in such activity while on duty or within any period of time during which such employee is expected to perform services for which the employee receives compensation from the state; or
- Utilize state or federal funds, supplies, equipment, or facilities to secure support for or oppose any candidate, party, or issue in a political partisan election.

In addition, no person seeking or holding municipal office or seeking state office in

accordance with the provisions of this policy shall engage in political activity or in the performance of the duties of such office while on state duty or within any period of time during which such person is expected to perform services for which that person receives compensation from the state. Further, with respect to employees who have contact with the public, the wearing of campaign buttons or symbols while on duty or within such period of time as set forth above is prohibited.

An employee who violates any provision of this policy may be discharged or disciplined pursuant to established disciplinary procedures or pursuant to the provisions of an applicable [collective bargaining agreement](#).

PROCEDURES

A Judicial Branch employee who becomes a candidate for a state elective office or a full-time elective municipal office shall give notice in writing to the Chief Court Administrator and the Director of the Administrative Services Division Human Resource Management Unit within thirty days after nomination for that office.

Any person employed in the Judicial Branch who accepts an elective state office shall resign from such employment upon taking such office. An individual who leaves employment to accept a full-time elective municipal office shall be granted a personal leave of absence without pay in accordance with the political activity policies of the Judicial Branch. (See the Leave for Elective Municipal Office subsection of the [Leave Without Pay Section](#) for further information). Further, Judicial Branch employees must comply with such regulations concerning conflict of interest in holding elective office as are established by the State Ethics Commission. Questions concerning possible conflicts of interest and all aspects of the political activity policy should be directed to the Human Resource Management Unit.

Questions? – [Human Resources](#) - (860) 706-5280